

COMMODORE LOUIS C. SARTORI.

JUNE 9, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MEYER, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 594.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 594) to promote Commodore Louis C. Sartori, now on the retired list of the Navy, to be a rear-admiral on said list, recommend that the same be amended by striking out in line 7, section 1, the word "Almy" and inserting the word "Greer."

As amended the committee recommend the passage of the bill. Several reports heretofore made to Congress are hereto appended.

[House Report No. 1377, Fifty-third Congress, second session.]

Commodore Sartori was appointed a midshipman on February 2, 1829, and remained on the active list of the Navy, passing through the successive grades of promotion, until the year 1874, when, on reaching the age of 62 years, he was commissioned a commodore and placed on the retired list.

Under the provisions of the act of July 25, 1866 (14 Stat. L., 222), increasing the number of officers in certain grades of the service, and providing that the increase in such grades should be made by selection from the grade next below of officers who had rendered the most efficient and faithful service during the war of the rebellion, and who possessed the highest professional qualifications and attainments, selections were made from the several grades of line officers on the active list, and the officers thus selected were, with the advice and consent of the Senate, commissioned in the advanced positions to which they were promoted over officers of the same or earlier date of entry in the service. Commodore Sartori was not among the officers selected for advancement under the act referred to, and consequently a large number of officers, his juniors in rank, were promoted over him.

Commodore Sartori is now upward of 80 years of age. Bills for his restoration to the rank and position to which he would have been entitled if he had been promoted according to seniority have been before your committee in prior Congresses, and have each time received a favorable recommendation.

This committee now report the bill back with an amendment, providing that in the promotion proposed "no additional back pay shall be allowed," and, as thus amended, adopt the report made in the Fifty-first Congress, and recommend that the bill do pass.

[House Report No. 2512, Fifty-first Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 3390) to promote Commodore Louis C. Sartori, now on the retired list of the Navy, to be a rear-admiral on said list, in accordance with his original position on the Navy Register, respectfully report:

That a similar bill was favorably reported from the Committee on Naval Affairs of the Forty-eighth Congress. A copy of said report is hereto appended.

Concurring in the reasons set forth therein, we recommend the passage of the bill.

[House Report No. 999, Forty-eighth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill H. R. 5389, with the memorial of Commodore Louis C. Sartori, and accompanying documents and testimonials, for restoration to his original position on the Navy Register, respectfully report:

That, as appears from an examination of the facts in the case, Commodore Sartori served on the active list of the Navy upward of forty-five years; that he was retired by reason of age in June, 1874; that while upon active service in the discharge of his duties at sea, and while entitled to promotion to captaincy by right of seniority, his many years of faithful and efficient service were set aside and twenty-eight of his juniors were placed above him.

We find that during the late war he was among the foremost and most persistent applicants for active service at sea, as shown by earnest appeals to the Secretary of the Navy and others, hereto annexed and made part of this report. That he was placed on blockade duty and not given such commands as would lead to distinction was not his fault, but in the positions allotted to him he always maintained a correct and honorable character, and commanded several vessels with credit and efficiency.

Your committee are satisfied that, in view of his many years of faithful performance of duty as an officer of the Navy, it will be but an act of justice to give to Commodore Sartori his rightful position on the retired list, which, it appears, is now next below that of Rear-Admiral Almy, and that he should be considered as having passed through the grades of captain and commodore in the regular order as if he had not been passed over.